

## REMARKS

### *Claim Objections*

The examiner objected to claim 20 due to alleged informalities. Claim 21 has been amended to include the term “being” after “dielectric” as this appears to be the intended objection.

### *Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*

The §103 rejections are respectfully traversed. For example, with respect to claim 1, Yao does not adjust the pH of a salt solution. Office action, page 2. The solution of Tijburg has nothing to do with depositing an oxide. For example, in Tijburg metals having an ion radius that is smaller than 0.110 nm are dispersed in the silicon oxide layer, such as to a depth of about a few ions below the surface of the silicon oxide layer, and are not a continuous layer on the silicon oxide. Column 2, lines 2-5 and 47-51; claim 1. In fact, larger metals, and/or metals with other properties are not useable by Tijburg. Column 2, lines 18-34. Thus, Tijburg has nothing to do with forming an oxide layer on a dielectric. For at least this reason, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established for claim 1 or the rejected dependent claims depending thereon.

With respect to claim 11, as was previously explained, the coating layer 2, on which the metal oxide is deposited, is removed and does not remain as a component of a device after fabrication. As such, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 11-15, and 18-20 is requested.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate subject matter similar to that of dependent claim 29, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter. As such, claim 21 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

New claim 36 is believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons: (1) claim 16 was said to include allowable subject matter; subject matter similar to, but not necessarily the same as, that of claim 16 has been included in new claim 36; (2) in the invention of claim 36 three layers, or at least a portion thereof are part of a fully processed semiconductor device. As such, new claim 36 and its dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

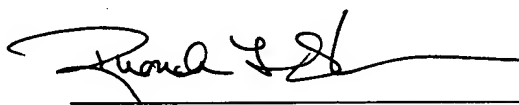
## CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.1024US).

Respectfully submitted,

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